



# **ATHLETIC COUNCIL**

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## ATHLETIC COUNCIL

### Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2001

PRESENT: Rick Audas, Gary Ferenchick, Joan Garety, Charles Gagliano, Mike Kasavana, Ann Marie Kersten, Kurt Lausman, Jack Lloyd, Edmund Outslay, Robin Poston, Gaylan Rasmussen, Tom Schmidt, Elizabeth Turpin, Clarence Underwood, Keith Williams, June Youatt

ABSENT: Francisco Villarruel, Melvin Yokoyama (sabbatical)

GUESTS: Stacy Slobodnik, Emily Bastel

The meeting was convened at 7:30 a.m. The minutes of the November 8 meeting were approved as distributed.

Today's guests were head women's golf coach, Stacy Slobodnik and student-athlete Emily Bastel, a senior marketing major from the UP.

The coach said this is an exciting time for Michigan State golf. The team enjoyed a Big Ten championship last year and has increased steadily in rankings, from 9th to 3rd and 2nd to 1st in the Big Ten. Currently the team is ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Slobodnik was named Big Ten Coach of the Year last year.

The coach announced that all the seniors in the program graduated last season. She stated that the team is committed to give 110% in every aspect of team

performance. The players are very enthusiastic, first to arrive at a match and the last to leave. They want to achieve the highest level possible.

In response to a question, Slobodnik said that she is the only coach in the Big Ten without an assistant. Coaching without an assistant makes it difficult for her to focus attention on the top players when she is committed to give equal attention to all the players. The ideal size for the team is eight players. Normally she travels with only five players. The six scholarships available to the team provide partial scholarships for eight players. Without its own van, the team makes use of University vans for short-range travel needs. For long-range travel, the team uses commercial air.

For the third time, Emily has gained Big Ten player of the week recognition. She also has made ESPN appearances and is on track for All America recognition. She has broken many records at Michigan State. She wanted to attend a Big Ten school not too far from home and Michigan State's highly rated academic and athletic programs impressed her. The fact that she could contribute right away also encouraged her to attend Michigan State. She feels that the coach is energetic and has already taken the sport to high levels and will take it to even higher levels in the future. The Smith Center was also a big attraction. Overall her MSU experience has been great. In response to another question, she said that it is difficult to balance travel with class. The travel requires that a student-athlete be well organized. As a rule, players are completely exhausted from schedules that begin early in the morning and extend late into the evening. Nonetheless she has found that establishing a good working relationship with the professors is critical for student-athlete success. In no order of importance, she mentioned the top items that attracted her to MSU: the facilities, two excellent golf courses, the many places to practice during the off-season, the dedicated driving range, the team spirit, and of course, MSU's academic reputation, especially that of the business school and the Smith Center.

Bastel, in answering a question, said she does have LPGA aspirations, but for the moment is concentrating on the current semester and a national reputation as an amateur. She is well aware that in order to make professional status she needs to make a serious life commitment.

Coach Slobodnik and Bastel departed the meeting after their presentation.

Chair Kasavana handed out and reviewed extensively the CIC and PAC 10 Resolutions. Kasavana will draft a statement for Council feedback prior to Academic Council submission.

## Subcommittee Reports

### Academic and Compliance Services

Rasmussen, chair of the subcommittee, reported that the group had met twice. The subcommittee met with Demetrius Marlowe to review programs and to discuss the difference between advising and counseling. Liz Freeman also attended the meetings and discussed Big Ten and NCAA requirements that determine the student-athlete's progress toward a degree. The committee also discussed the unique challenges that face the program.

### Planning and Equity Committee

To date, the subcommittee has not selected a chair, yet it has had one meeting with Associate Athletic Director Shelley Appelbaum. There were no issues to report. The group will meet again in January.

### Communications and Operations

The Communications and Operations subcommittee is still deliberating its role. Last year, the group did extensive work regarding Breslin seating and will use the feedback that emerged from that seating plan in its ongoing discussions. The discussion of Spartan Stadium seating looms on the horizon for a future committee agenda.

### Drug Education and Testing

The committee has met twice. To date, 400 student-athlete tests have been conducted and have produced few positive results. The educational component of the program is developing well. The committee met with the athletic trainers to discuss better ways to enhance communication between them and the psychologists. Chair Gary Ferenchick mentioned that the committee is collecting information on other University committees that monitor student drug issues in order to establish greater collaboration with them.

## Athletic Director Report

Underwood reported as follows:

- The department has hired Jennifer Smith as the new director for compliance. There were many fine candidates, four were brought to campus to interview. The committee determined that Smith, the internal candidate, was the best qualified. This position carries a one-year renewable contract.
- Reviewed and discussed the budget, and responded to questions from the Council.
- The Hall of Fame program has been in place for four years. The program is costly and the department is looking for alternate, more economical ways to celebrate the program. One consideration is to schedule the program every other year.
- Many coaches have made outstanding gains in their areas. Many have achieved high recognition either in the Big Ten or the NCAA. For example, the field hockey team has earned a Big Ten championship. The volleyball and soccer teams were invited to play in their respective NCAA tournaments.
- The department has received a sixth place Sears Cup ranking. This is the highest ranking the University has ever achieved in this national ranking system.
- Michigan State has committed to participate in the Silicon Valley Football Classic.
- The department has been meeting with the dance team, MSU Soul, to discuss a schedule of its appearances at home basketball games.

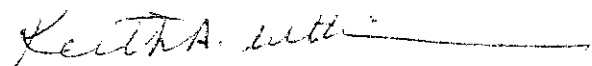
## Faculty Athletics Representative Report

Faculty Representative Kasavana discussed extensively the Athlinfo, Degree Navigator, and SIS systems. He also discussed two documents distributed in advance of the previous Council meeting: the Arizona Accord and the Initial Eligibility Requirements.

There were no announcements from around the table.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith A. Williams". A horizontal line is drawn across the end of the signature.

Keith A. Williams  
Secretary